Merritt, Clara S.

[Librarian, Port Chester
Public Library,
Port Chester, NY]

1926

PORT CHESTER PUBLIC LIBRARY
PORT CHESTER, N. Y.

JOHN W. DIEHL
PRESIDENT

CLARA S. MERRITT
LIBRARIAN

November 8th, 1926.

American Numismatic Society,
Broadway and 156th Street,
New York City.

Gentlemen:

Will you please let me know the author and title of a good reference book on old coins? We should like to have a book that is not too technical but with plenty of illustrations, a book that would be suitable for a small public library.

Thanking you for your courtesy in this matter, I am,

Very truly yours,

Clara S. Merritt

Librarian.

CSM:FET

November 10, 1926

Miss Clara S. Merritt, Librarian,
Port Chester Public Library,
Port Chester, N.Y.

Dear Madam:

Responding to your letter of the 6th, I regret to advise that there is no single good reference book dealing with old coins. In a general way, Rawlings' Coins and How to Know Them (Stokes) covers the entire range, and inadequately handles the subject in a popular way. For Greek and Roman coins, MacDonald's Greek Coin Types is unsurpassed. Probably you already have Hill's Handbook of Greek and Roman Coins.

For authoritative reference regarding Greek coins only, the indispensable book is Head's Historia Numorum, but this is rather expensive, $15-$20(?).

A convenient booklet, which will enable you to answer troublesome questions as to the premiums paid on scarce U.S. coins, you may obtain from Guttag Brothers, 16 Exchange Place, New York City; this pamphlet sells for something under a dollar. A similar publication, though somewhat older, is the Elder Rare Coin Book, published by T. S. Elder Coin and Curio Company, at 9, East 35th Street, New York City.

In handling such questions, however, bear in mind that condition is usually the determining factor in evaluating a coin. No matter how rare the coin, if the condition is bad the price is apt to be negligible.

I trust this will give you the information you desire. We should be very glad to have you call at our Library at your convenience, when I could go further into the matter of building up your numismatic section, a condition which we desire to encourage insofar as it is possible for us to do so.

Very truly yours,

Secretary and Librarian.